

## SYNOPSIS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING

# PUBLIC SESSION

# OCTOBER 21, 2015

## Chair's Remarks

The Chair began by welcoming everyone back. She advised that Committee work is well underway and Board orientation has taken place. She thanked everyone for all of the work done to start the new school year.

The Chair offered the Board's congratulations on Dr. McTiernan's reappointment. The communication went out in September and the Board is pleased to have concluded the contract and have the President with us for many more years.

She also noted concerns surrounding safety and security given the recent events that took place at WLU. She expressed thanks for the work of our security teams to keep the UOIT community safe.

She also welcomed the new Board members and encouraged their full engagement and participation.

#### **President's Report**

The President commented on the active start up this year, a credit to the university community that we can engage with new students. He discussed participating in one of UOIT's weird traditions of wearing all of the faculties' t-shirts.

He informed the Board that one of the activities that happened early in the academic year was Indigenous Awareness Week and how this is only part of the developing set of activities to support Indigenous students.

The President also announced that the Board approved the awarding of tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor to the following tenure-track faculty members, effective July 1, 2015:

- Chirag Surti, Faculty of Business and Information Technology
- Greg Rohrauer, Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science

## **Co-Populous Report**

D. Allingham sent his regrets but the Chair provided an update on his behalf. There are new faces on both the DC leadership team and the DC Board. Orientation was held successfully and all Board subcommittees are up and running.

Enrolments at the college for both domestic and international students saw modest increases in 2015 and this is in contrast to what is being seen system wide where the market for new students is on the decline.

The college system and Durham College is planning for its 50th anniversary to take place in in 2017. Don is leading the college system as the chair of the Provincial committee that is planning the celebration.

#### Start Up Update

D. Saucier delivered a presentation on Start Up for 2015-16. She reviewed enrolment figures, as well as the demographics of UOIT's students. She discussed the success of Math Boot Camps. She also confirmed a 60% attendance at September student orientation, which is well above the provincial average. She talked about student leadership awards and how UOIT's students are very involved (300 different organizations). Over 800 senior students volunteered their time to help new students.

The Chair thanked D. Saucier for giving an overview of what goes on during the new school year start up session.

#### **Community Reports/Presentations**

J. Cullen, the President of The Student Association at Durham College and UOIT, addressed the Board regarding two topics: the Board Meeting Policy and Procedures and Aramark Food Services. He expressed his concern at the notice requirements to speak at a meeting and attend a meeting. He also expressed his concern that the meetings of the Board's standing committees should be open to the public, within reasonable standards, in accordance with the UOIT Act.

He expressed concerns about the cost of food on campus, as well as the lack of authentic cultural food available. Another issue of concern was the mandatory meal plan in student residences, which could act as a barrier to low income students. The establishment of a Campus Food Committee has been a positive development and provides students with an opportunity to collaborate with Aramark.

Dr. Gary Genosko, President of the UOIT Faculty Association, also addressed the Board regarding the Board Meeting Policy and Procedures. He expressed concern that the policy creates too many obstacles to creating an open, transparent, and collegial system at UOIT. He referenced the UOIT Act and By-Law requirements, as well as the committee structure in place at U of T. He also suggested the Board consider inviting non-Board members to be part of their standing committees.

K. Brearley, the Chair of the Governance, Nominations and Human Resources Committee thanked both speakers for their presentations and advised them that at the last Committee meeting on September 16, they began revisiting the policy. The Board heard their comments and when the Committee meets in November, it will take into consideration all comments made in writing, as well as the thoughtful presentations made at the meeting.

# **Highlights from Committee Reports**

## Audit & Finance Committee (including Investment Committee):

- The Board of Governors approved the following items:
  - Use of the External Auditor for Non-Audit Services Policy;
  - RBC PH&NIC Account Opening Resolution;

## Governance, Nominations and Human Resources (GNHR) Committee:

• C. Foy provided a By-Law Review Project update

## Strategy & Planning Committee:

• M. Owen delivered a presentation on UOIT's International Plan

## Alumni Association

• K. Gambier from the Alumni Association provided an update to the Board, including Bruce Croxon's speaking engagement at Homecoming 2015